

II. APPLICANTS' ARGUMENTS AND REMARKS

a). Status of the Claims

Claims 1-40 and 45 are pending. Claims 1-19 are allowable. *See* page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 23, 24, 32, 33, 34, and 37-38 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. *See* page 5 of the Office Action. Applicants amend claims 23, 24, 32, 33, 34, and 37-38 by re-writing them in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 20-22, 25-32, 35, 36, 40, and 45 stand rejected. Applicants cancel claims 20-22, 25-32, 35, 36, 40, and 45 without prejudice with this response.

b). Claim Objections

Claim 39 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), allegedly as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In response, Applicants cancel claim 39 without prejudice. Therefore, the objection is moot.

Claim 32 is objected to because of some informalities. Claim 32 is canceled with this response and therefore, the objection to claim 32 is moot.

c). Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claim 45 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants cancel claim 45 with this response without prejudice and therefore, the rejection of claim 45 is moot.

d). Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 20-22, 25-32, 35, 36, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) allegedly as being anticipated by *Turkova* et al (Journal of Chromatography B, Vol. 722, pages 11-31 (1999)).

To expedite prosecution of the above-identified patent application and without conceding that *Turkova* indeed anticipate the rejected claims, Applicants cancel claims 20-22, 25-32, 35, 36, and 40 with this response without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file canceled claims 20-22, 25-32, 35, 36, and 40 in a continuation application.

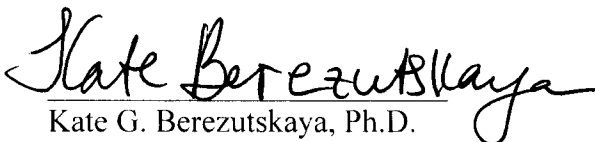
III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in good and proper order for allowance and early notification to this effect is respectfully solicited. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (312)-846-5622.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWREY LLP

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By: 
Kate G. Berezutskaya, Ph.D.
Registration No.: 53,984
Customer No.: 22930